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Message Text

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21
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

EB-07 /071 W
---------- 057285
R 141500Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6282
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, MT. UR
SUBJECT: TRADE MISSION VISITS MALTA

1. A THREE MAN SOVIET DELEGATION ARRIVED IN MALTA JULY 10 TO NEGOTIATE A "COMMERCIAL TREATY" WITH THE GOM. THE DELEGATION IS COMPOSED OF MR. GEORGE S. BURGUCHEV AND MR. VALADIMIR CHECLIN, BOTH FROM THE SOVIET MINISTRY OF TRADE, AND MR. V. SAMARIN, INTERPRETER. BURGUCHEV, LEADER OF THE DELEGATION, IS DESCRIBED AS HEAD OF THE LEGAL

DIVISION OF THE MINISTRY OF TRADE. PRESS REPORTS ANNOUNCING THE VISIT INDICATED THE DELEGATION WOULD REMAIN IN MALTA FOR ONE WEEK, DURING WHICH TIME THEY WOULD DISCUSS ALSO THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A SOVIET "TRADE MISSION" IN MALTA.

2. COMMENT: SOVIET VISIT IS IN RESPONSE TO TRIP EARLIER THIS YEAR TO MOSCOW BY GOM TRADE MINISTER PAUL XUEREB AND LABOR MINISTER AGATHA BARBARA. CURRENT TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IS QUITE SMALL. MALTESE EXPORTS TO THE SOVIET UNION IN 1974 AMOUNTED TO ONLY LM454.000 (DOLS 1.2 MILLION), WHILE IMPORTS TOTALED LM 2.4 MILLION (DOLS 6.5 MILLION). THE KEY QUESTION WILL BE WHETHER OR NOT PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF ALLOWS THE SOVIETS TO OPEN A "TRADE MISSION" IN MALTA. NEWS OF THIS
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POSSIBILITY CAME AS AN APPARENT SURPIRISE TO REPRESENTATIVES

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OF PRC EMBASSY HERE, WITH WHOM EMBOFF DISCUSSED SUBJECT BRIEFLY AT SOCIAL FUNCTION ON JULY 10. AFTER EXTENDING LARGE LOAN TO MALTA, AND PROVIDING EXTENSIVE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AS WELL, IT IS CERTAIN THAT CHINESE WOULD NOT WELCOME SOVIET PRESENCE HERE, EVEN IF CALLED A "TRADE MISSION" RATHER THAN AN EMBASSY. SMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Authority: CunninFX
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Disposition History: n/a
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